



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Mr. Fraley reported the receipt of \$150.40, the dividend from the Michaux legacy last due, January 1st, 1876.

Mr. Blodget, on behalf of the Committee appointed at the last meeting, made a preliminary report, and the meeting was adjourned.

Stated Meeting, February 18th, 1876.

Present, 13 members.

Vice-President, Mr. FRALEY, in the Chair.

A letter accepting membership was received from Dr. J. Gibbons Hunt, dated Philadelphia, February 4th, 1876.

A letter respecting the action of the Society on the subject of the Polaris Expedition was received from Admiral Davis, dated Washington, February 15th, 1876.

A letter respecting a coin of 1670, the date of the settlement of Quebec, struck by order of Louis XIV, and making the first currency of French North America, was received from Prof. Charles E. Anthon, dated, College of the City of New York, February 11th, 1876, desiring to learn whether the Society would accept the coin, and place a record of its character in their Proceedings.

A letter of envoy was received from the U. S. Naval Observatory at Washington.

Letters of acknowledgment were received from the R. Danish Academy, January 15th (XVII. 93, 94); Essex Institution, February 5th (95); Boston N. H. S. (95; and asking for Vol. V, N. S. and 94); and the U. S. Naval Observatory, February 4th (95).

Donations for the Library were received from the Society at Dresden; the Geographical Society at Paris; the Editors of the *Revue Politique*; *Nouvelles Météorologiques*; *Revue Philosophique*; and *Revue Historique*; the British Association; Geological, and Meteorological Societies; *Nature*; Mr. Sam. Birch of the British Museum; Liverpool L. and P. Society; Franklin Institute; *Medical News*; Prof. E. J. Houston; and U. S. Naval Observatory.

The Committee on Dr. Valentini's memoir was continued. The death of Mr. Charles des Moulins, at Bordeaux, on the 23d December, 1875, was announced by letter. Mr. Blasius read a defense of his theory of storms.

A Brief Discussion of Some Opinions in Meteorology.

By W. BLASIUS.

Read before the American Philosophical Society, February 18th, 1876.

The definite establishment of the laws which regulate the weather is of so much general importance that I am induced to ask your attention to the following remarks, since the discussion of opinions cannot fail to elaborate the truth at last.

In the January number of the *Atlantic Monthly*, there appeared a fair-tempered review of my recent work on "Storms," which seems to be from the pen of a practical meteorologist, between whom and myself, therefore, I am the more anxious that there should be no misunderstandings. The reviewer does not deny nor admit the truth of the theories I have advanced, but leaves them to the verdict of time.

He in some important particulars, however, fails to understand the views I hold. Permit me to quote :

"The West Cambridge Tornado, which first decided the direction of our author's meteorological studies, seems to have had a too powerful influence upon his judgment of the 'cyclonists,' the upholders of Redfield's Theory. Where a cyclonist sees a large storm 500 miles in diameter, on the borders of which the winds are blowing in every direction, Dr. Blasius sees many small storms, each modeled in a greater or less degree like the West Cambridge Tornado. A very striking proof that a storm may be constituted as the cyclones are supposed to be is afforded by the singular case of the ship *Charles Heddle*, which was caught in the borders of one of these cyclones, and sailed five times completely around its border, meeting winds blowing exactly in the directions demanded by the cyclone theory. The experience of Dr. Blasius has been limited to local storms, and he has apparently never been able to realize the existence of a storm of any magnitude.

This is particularly evident in the discussion of Prof. Abbe's report on the Nova Scotia storm of August 23, 1873. Prof. Abbe is speaking of a storm at least 500 miles in diameter, but Dr. Blasius discusses it as if it were an assemblage of tornadoes each 1,200 feet wide."

Now the statement that where "a cyclonist sees large storms," I see "many small storms" is curious enough, since a considerable part of my